

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING HOMETOWN HERO  
MOHAMED EBEIDA

**HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2023*

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. Mohamed Ebeida, founder of the Marvels Program. Dr. Ebeida is a pioneer in introducing STEM and group collaboration opportunities in North Texas for the Muslim community and beyond.

Dr. Ebeida is the founder of the youth Muslim robotics team known as the Marvels of Irving. He is a research scientist at Sandia National Laboratories and has used his knowledge to enrich the STEM community in Texas—24. Dr. Ebeida helped introduce FIRST, an international STEM learning robotics program, for North Texas schools to participate, collaborate, and compete in. He also hosts the First Technical Challenge, which is a head-to-head competition in the area of robotics, for 35 teams in our community to partake in. Dr. Ebeida has brought together and emboldened the Muslim community and countless youth in North Texas to express themselves through STEM.

I thank Dr. Ebeida, for going above and beyond for our community. His selflessness and dedication do not go unnoticed.

CONDEMNING THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY'S USE OF A HIGH-ALTITUDE SURVEILLANCE BALLOON OVER UNITED STATES TERRITORY AS A BRAZEN VIOLATION OF UNITED STATES SOVEREIGNTY

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 9, 2023*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, This was no weather balloon. This was a spy balloon.

Let me be very clear: Members of both sides of the aisle, Democrats and Republicans, are standing before the American people and recognizing that this resolution of the Chinese Communist Party's actions is appropriate, and we should, as Americans, denounce their actions.

Let me be very clear as well: I want to congratulate the United States military intelligence officials and others who effectively took the Commander in Chief's order that occurred on February 1st to shoot it down.

They handled themselves with the greatest amount of appropriateness to ensure that the American people were safe, to contain the threat, and do their job.

It serves no purpose to suggest that the Commander in Chief, President Joe Biden, failed the American people or did anything wrong.

Interestingly enough, in the midst of the spy balloon, over 70 percent of the American people believe that Joe Biden took to the podium in the State of the Union and gave them enough comfort that the State of the Union is well, our souls are strong, and the American people are strong.

Yes, as a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I am keenly aware and concerned about the Nation's national security, keenly aware of the timeframe in which this spy balloon came into our eyesight.

With that in mind, even as it traversed the United States, I can assure you, in spite of the chronicling of the facts here, that General Austin, the Department of Defense, and others that were responsible for our safety, pursuant to the direction of the Commander in Chief, followed this spy balloon and were able to handle it appropriately in the course of shooting it down.

Finally, let me say: it is important that we use this as a condemnation of the Chinese Communist Party.

Let us not use this to intimidate Chinese Americans or to be able to create atmospheres of hate. I denounce that, and I denounce SB 147 in the State of Texas that wants to stop Chinese Americans from buying property. That is not the American way.

What is the American way is to stand as Democrats and Republicans and Members of Congress to take our full responsibility, alongside the executive, to ensure national security. We have done that.

We have the facts, we know the traversing, and I can assure you that the Chinese Americans have not engaged themselves in this activity and should not be condemned.

The Chinese Communist Party is aware of the strength of the people of the United States and their defense.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICAN PORT ACCESS PRIVILEGES ACT OF 2023

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2023*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduce the "American Port Access Privileges Act," with Congressmen JIMMY PANETTA (D—CA19) and JIM COSTA (D—CA21). Foreign-flagged vessels' access to the American market and its consumers is a privilege, not a right. Congress must ensure reciprocity in trade and the ocean shipping industry, which is dominated by a handful of foreign-flagged ocean carriers. Some of these foreign ocean carriers are effectively state-controlled enterprises.

Our "American Port Access Privileges Act" would correct the structural disadvantages facing American exporters at our nation's ports by rewarding ocean carriers that serve both importers and exporters. First, the bill would

codify the current preferences for military, Jones Act, and other US-flagged vessels in place at many major American ports. Second, the bill would establish a secondary berthing preference for ocean-going commercial vessels servicing multiple ports in the United States or with significant cargo bookings of American exports.

This new preferential berthing will reward ocean carriers that serve both importers and American exporters by moving those vessels to the front of the queue for unloading and loading. It will similarly incentivize ocean carriers to make second-leg voyages to ports like the Port of Oakland, which is critical for California's agricultural exporters. Any port authority seeking federal funding from the Maritime Administration's port infrastructure development grant program would be required to accept these berthing preferences.

However, our bill ensures that the new preferential berthing and port access for export carrying-vessels would never interfere with U.S. Coast Guard orders for commercial vessels, port safety, or collective bargaining agreements for port workers. Our "American Port Access Privileges Act" would require that export-carrying vessels seeking preferential berthing report cargo bookings at least 7 days in advance to port operators.

Lastly, our bill would authorize the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics to collect data on berthing and cargo practices at U.S. ports. This will evaluate ocean carriers' practices for port calls and cargo bookings, as well as the impact of preferential berthing afforded under our bill. A similar data-collection provision sponsored by U.S. Senator ROGER F. WICKER's (R—MS) on container and chassis availability is incorporated as Section 16 (Dwell Time Statistics) of the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–146), of which I was the House sponsor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all members to cosponsor the "American Port Access Privileges Act" to ensure fair trade for U.S. businesses and keep hard-won foreign markets accessible to California's agricultural exporters. As a senior member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the former ranking member of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation from the 113th to the 115th Congresses, I plan to make this legislation a major priority.

HONORING MARLBORO  
TOWNSHIP'S 175TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ANDY KIM**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2023*

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marlboro Township as they celebrate the 175th anniversary of the township's incorporation this week.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Previously a part of Freehold Township, in February of 1848, the New Jersey State Legislature founded Marlboro Township as a separate town, which is now part of New Jersey's 3rd District. Receiving its name from local farmers utilizing marl beds to cultivate their crops, the town originated as a rural farm town within our state. They held a major role within the agricultural industry, exporting marl to other regions of the state and country that did not have this naturally occurring fertilizer.

While the town had humble beginnings at the time of its incorporation, with only 1,500 people calling it home, Marlboro quickly rose to have the population of over 41,000 residents that exists today. Known by many as a safe community with many local draws like excellent schools and convenient access to metropolitan areas, the town has become a destination for many families to build their lives.

We are proud to celebrate the accomplishments of Marlboro Township over the course of their 175-year history. I look forward to all they will continue to accomplish and many more years of notable milestones.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF CHRISTOPHER HAGAN MATHIS

#### HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2023*

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Christopher Hagan Mathis for his admirable service to the people of Tennessee's Seventh Congressional District.

Hagan first joined my team in May 2019 as a district intern while studying for his degree in Finance and Political Science at the University of Alabama. His diligence and his commitment to service made him stand out among his peers, making him a natural fit for the position of personal aide.

The transition from Tennessee's State Senate to the United States House of Representatives is no easy task, but Hagan was instrumental in ensuring that it was as smooth as possible. As a body man, a driver, and a personal aide, Hagan ensured I was always where I needed to be while also providing critical research support for my team. Upon his graduation in May 2020, Hagan joined my district team full-time as a Staff Assistant.

While I have many duties as a Representative of Tennessee, my most basic responsibility and privilege is meeting face-to-face with my constituents. Learning their names and stories, fielding their questions and concerns, and representing their interests in Washington is my singular mission. The pandemic made 2020 and the years following it a turbulent and challenging period, but Hagan's commitment to serving the constituents of Tennessee's Seventh Congressional District never wavered. A Tennessean himself, he fully embraced my mission and proved himself to be a reliable and steady hand that I could count on. Through COVID-19, floods, tornadoes, and other natural disasters, and through town halls and district meetings, Hagan escorted me on numerous trips over countless miles. Many congressional staffers are acquainted with long days and late nights, but few know them better than Hagan.

Hagan's service to the constituents of Tennessee's Seventh Congressional District cannot be overstated; the impact of the countless face-to-face meetings and events that Hagan helped facilitate is incalculable. He was the man I relied on to connect me to my constituents, to ensure that our mission was carried out. While I am sad to see him go, I know he has a bright future in store. On behalf of the United States Congress and a grateful constituency, I thank Hagan Mathis for his honorable service to Tennesseans and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL ALMOND DAY

#### HON. JOHN S. DUARTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2023*

Mr. DUARTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today joined by my colleagues, Rep. DAVID VALADAO, Rep. JIM COSTA, Rep. TOM MCCLINTOCK, and Rep. JOHN GARAMENDI, to recognize February 16, 2023, as National Almond Day. We celebrate the hard-working men and women involved in this great industry, past, and present, for their hard work in providing our Nation and the world with food, fiber, and energy. It is a day to thank those who work by acres, not hours.

National Almond Day is a time to recognize the many benefits almonds provide in a healthy diet and to pay tribute to the hard-working farmers, processors, and other industry members who make the almond industry one of the most successful and innovative in the United States.

Americans and people around the world can observe this day by snacking on one of the world's most nutritious foods, almonds. Almonds provide many health benefits and are a great source of protein, healthy fats, and fiber. They are gluten-free and contain essential vitamins and minerals such as Vitamin E, magnesium, and potassium. As a convenient, versatile, and healthy food option, almonds can be enjoyed in various ways, such as snacking, baking, and cooking. Among their many benefits, almonds help maintain a healthy heart, healthy cholesterol levels, and healthy blood sugar levels. They also provide key nutrients that promote skin health and protect against ultraviolet radiation.

Our home state of California is home to 7,600 almond farms, and nearly 90 percent of those farms are family farms, and many are owned and operated by third and fourth generation farmers. Nearly 70 percent of California almond farms are 100 acres or less. There are 98 almond handlers in California, many of which are family-owned businesses.

In California alone, the almond industry employs 110,000 people and contributes \$9.2 billion annually to the economy. The state is responsible for 100 percent of the U.S. almond supply and 80 percent of the world's almond supply. This great industry has improved the efficiency of water use, reaching 75 percent of the almond community's goal to attain a 20 percent improvement by 2025. Growers and processors are finding new food product opportunities for uses of the almond hull, with a goal to achieve zero waste in the orchards.

The almond industry has long played a crucial role in all Americans' economic and nutri-

tional well-being. Our constituents are innovative agriculturists who are constantly looking for ways to further the growth and success of the industry. Moreover, the United States almond industry is instrumental to the preservation of farmland and forms the backbone of many rural communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in celebrating National Almond Day and the contributions of almond farmers, processors, and other industry members, who make the almond industry one of the most successful and innovative in the United States.

#### HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF JUD TEAGUE

#### HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2023*

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Jud Teague, Director of the Kingsport Chamber's Visit Kingsport Program, for his dedication to our community and commitment to tourism in Northeast Tennessee.

A native of Powell, Tennessee, Jud Teague dedicated over 25 years of service to the tourism industry in East Tennessee. Jud graduated from the University of Tennessee with a Bachelor of Science in agriculture. From there, he began teaching biology with the Knox County School System. His tenure as an educator also included a successful coaching career in baseball, football, and basketball at Bearden High School and Powell High School.

Jud also found time to volunteer with local community sports programs, including Knox Youth Sports, and was later hired as their Executive Director. He was instrumental in developing Lakeshore Park, 200 plus-acre facility with multiple trails, baseball, softball fields, and playgrounds, including a universal playground designed to be inclusive for children of every ability. Jud's involvement in youth baseball earned him a spot on the AAU Baseball Executive Committee. He also received the AAU National Baseball Volunteer of the Year award and the Disney Wide World of Sports Award of Excellence. He was later hired as the baseball senior sports manager for AAU at Walt Disney World Resort.

Since 2006, Jud has served as the Executive Director of Visit Kingsport, where his collaborative efforts led to more than \$100 Million in local economic impact. As a result of his work, Visit Kingsport received multiple Pinnacle Awards for Excellence in Tourism from the Northeast Tennessee Tourism Association (NETTA).

Adding to his list of accolades and accomplishments, Jud received the Tennessee Tourism Professional of the Year Award—the state's highest tourism honor—from the Tennessee Hospitality & Tourism Association. He is perhaps most proud of developing Miracle Field, a \$2.5 million sporting complex. Jud created and spearheaded the project for his son Nicholas, who has Down syndrome, and other children with special needs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Jud Teague on his years of service to the tourism industry and wishing him and his family the best of luck in his retirement.

# INTRODUCTION OF THE FRANCIS G. NEWLANDS MEMORIAL REMOVAL ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, February 14, 2023*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the Francis G. Newlands Memorial Removal Act, which would remove the plaque and inscriptions on a fountain bearing Francis G. Newlands' name from Chevy Chase Circle, a federal park located both in the District of Columbia and Maryland. I am pleased Representative JAMIE RASKIN of Maryland joins me in introducing this bill. This bill is part of a series of statue and memorial removal bills I am introducing during Black History Month.

Newlands was a U.S. senator from Nevada, a conservationist and the founder of the Chevy Chase Land Company, which developed the Chevy Chase neighborhood that touches D.C. and Maryland. Newlands was also a segregationist. He built Connecticut Avenue and ran a streetcar up the road to the newly built Chevy Chase Lake. However, homes on Connecticut Avenue were purposely priced to keep working families out, and covenants were later added to many of the property deeds in Chevy Chase explicitly prohibiting the land from ever being owned by African Americans or Jews. These covenants have since been declared void.

Newlands went further to keep Black and white Americans separate. In the late 1800s, he and Senator William Stewart secured 2,000 acres of land for Rock Creek Park. Establishing this park not only increased property values for landowners like Newlands and Stewart, but also kept white communities distinct from emerging Black communities on what they called the "wrong side of the park." Newlands' racist views went even further. In 1912, he called for the repeal of the 15th amendment, which gave African American men the right to vote.

The fountain in Chevy Chase Circle was established in 1932 by Congress. In 1990, the Chevy Chase Land Company added a plaque with Newlands' name next to the fountain. A resolution to remove Newlands' name from the fountain was first introduced by the D.C. Chevy Chase Advisory Neighborhood Commission in 2014. On July 27, 2020, the commission voted unanimously to ask the National Park Service to remove the plaque bearing Newlands' name and to begin discussion on a new name for the fountain. On September 14, 2020, the Maryland Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers adopted a resolution calling on NPS and Congress to strip any mention of Newlands from the fountain. And on April 19, 2022, Montgomery County Council introduced a resolution affirming the county's support for this bill.

I believe NPS has the administrative authority to remove Newlands' name from the fountain, given that the memorial's authorizing statute does not name Senator Newlands nor dedicate the memorial to him. Last Congress, I wrote a letter with Representative JAMIE RASKIN and Senators CHRIS VAN HOLLEN and BEN CARDIN urging NPS to use their existing authority to remove or conceal Newlands'

name, and they have not done so. This bill would remove Newlands' name from the fountain and remove the plaque entirely.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

## CELEBRATING MR. PHILIP EVOLA'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. CHUCK EDWARDS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, February 14, 2023*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Philip Evola as he celebrates his 100 birthday on February 16, 2023.

Mr. Evola is a first generation American who was born into an Italian immigrant family on February 16, 1923, in Flushing, New York. He has dedicated his life to working hard, and being a dutiful husband, father and neighbor. He and his late wife, Norma, moved to Western North Carolina more than 30 years ago, where he still enjoys the beautiful scenery and his loving community. Mr. Evola is the epitome of the American Dream, and it is my honor to recognize him today.

## HONORING THE CAREER OF JOSEPH ESKENAZI

**HON. TED LIEU**

OF CALIFORNIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, February 14, 2023*

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Mr. Joseph Eskenazi, a decorated United States Army veteran living in California's 36th Congressional District who was honored at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans for his service. As the Nation's oldest living U.S. Pearl Harbor survivor, Joseph celebrated his 105th birthday on January 30, 2023.

Joseph Eskenazi was born on January 30, 1918, in New York. At the age of 7, Joseph and his family moved to Puebla, Mexico. Though he spent many of his formative years in Puebla, Mr. Eskenazi returned to New York in 1936 and he enlisted in the Army in 1938. In 1941, Private First Class Eskenazi was stationed at the Schofield Barracks as a member of Company C of the 804th Engineers. On the morning of December 7, 1941, Joseph witnessed the bombing on Pearl Harbor and lost a friend as a Japanese plane strafed their barracks. When his captain in the 804th Engineers Battalion sought volunteers to help clear debris, Joseph raised his hand without hesitation and drove a bulldozer, while avoiding gun fire, to clear the railroad tracks to allow other soldiers to move equipment and repair damage to the Hickam Airfield.

After the war, Joseph traveled back to Mexico, where he met his wife, Victoria Faradji. They moved to Redondo Beach, California, and Joseph worked at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). Joseph assisted with the design of the runways at LAX. Throughout this time and after retirement, Joseph and Victoria followed their passion for travel, sharing

many trips abroad together. They were happily married for 74 years.

At the age of 95, Joseph's military history was recognized, and he was invited to participate in local Veterans and Memorial Day events. With the assistance of the Gary Sinise Foundation's Soaring Valor Program, Joseph made the train ride from Los Angeles to the National World War II Museum in New Orleans. Surrounded by family and local residents, Joseph and eight other veterans were celebrated and honored in a ceremony for their service in World War II. Joseph's oral history of his service was added to the National World War II Museum's archives.

I want to thank and recognize Joseph for his years in the service to our Nation, and to communities in Southern California. His heroic actions during World War II and the life of service he has lived is an inspiration to our country.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE NO TAX SUBSIDIES FOR STADIUMS ACT

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, February 14, 2023*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the No Tax Subsidies for Stadiums Act. This commonsense legislation will close the tax loophole that allows a tax-exemption on municipal bonds used to finance professional sports stadiums.

For more than a century, the federal government has supported state and local infrastructure projects by excluding the interest on municipal bonds from federal income taxes. Qualified projects eligible for a tax-exemption include roads, sewers and water systems, hospitals, schools, governmental buildings, and other projects for the public good. However, a loophole in the tax code allows professional sports franchises to use public money to construct stadiums using taxexempt municipal bonds.

Since 2000, dozens of professional sports stadiums have been constructed or rehabilitated under financing provided by federal tax-exempt municipal bonds, costing taxpayers nearly \$4 billion. While professional sports teams promise state and local governments that their stadiums will produce local economic development and job creation, there is no quantifiable evidence that they provide these benefits. Providing a federal subsidy for a professional sports stadium requires residents of a state without a professional team to subsidize a stadium in another part of the country, where they receive no benefit whatsoever. Public financing creates a race to the bottom where teams worth hundreds of millions, or billions, of dollars have all the leverage to exploit city budgets for their own gain.

By disallowing a federal tax-exemption, hundreds of millions of dollars a year will be returned to American taxpayers or can be put toward making our communities more safe, healthy, and economically secure. I thank my friends Senators LANKFORD and BOOKER in their support for this legislation in the Senate and I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact this critical legislation.

HONORING ROOSEVELT BURRELL,  
JR. LIFE AND LEGACY

**HON. MARC A. VEASEY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2023*

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Roosevelt Burrell, Jr. of Fort Worth. Roosevelt was born on April 18, 1927, and used his life to become a pillar of his family and our community. He was the patriarch of a family of six brothers and one sister, and in 1948 he and his beloved wife, Pearlie, moved to Fort Worth's "Northside" and then shortly thereafter grounded their family in the Lake Como Community.

Roosevelt was passionate about his family, church, and our community. He was a self-made business legend and leader in the Lake Como community. As a businessman, he ran successful ventures from Roosevelt Burrell Jr. and Son Construction Company Inc., building homes for HUD to statewide highway construction projects and Metroplexwide mechanized power washing contracts through Cowtown Traffic Control, Inc. Roosevelt's entrepreneurial spirit helped contribute to the growth and development of the state of Texas and the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. His business ventures evoked a sense of pride in the Black community when everyone would admire the success he had achieved when they saw his company employees operate their vehicles in downtown and other key areas in Fort Worth. Even with his massive successes, Roosevelt stayed grounded and respected on Helmick Ave in the venerable Lake Como neighborhood. His business ventures evoked a sense of pride in the Black community when everyone would admire the success he had achieved when they saw his company employees operate their vehicles in downtown and other key areas in Fort Worth. Even with his massive successes, Roosevelt stayed grounded and respected on Helmick Ave in the venerable Lake Como neighborhood.

Roosevelt also bravely served our country as a WWII Navy Veteran and was a man of faith, serving as a deacon and finance manager at his church for over 50 years. My condolences are with the 1 sibling, his 3 children, 5 grandkids, and 14 greatgrandchildren that he is survived by.

RECOGNIZING FIRE ENGINEER  
MIGUEL CERVANTES

**HON. NORMA J. TORRES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2023*

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Miguel Cervantes and his decades of public service ensuring the safety of his fellow community members and his many years of dedication to the City of Rancho Cucamonga as a Fire Engineer. Together we mourn the loss of a community hero.

Miguel started his over 20-year career serving the Inland Empire as a Volunteer Firefighter with Riverside County Fire Department. He became an Apprentice Firefighter with Norco Fire Department in 2000 where he later promoted to Firefighter. In 2006, Miguel trans-

ferred to the Rancho Cucamonga Fire District as a Firefighter and was promoted to Fire Engineer 5 years later. Throughout his many years of service with the Rancho Cucamonga Fire District, Miguel was a member of the Honor Guard, Technical Rescue Team, Regional FEMA USAR Team. Additionally, he served as the Executive Board Vice President of the Rancho Cucamonga Firefighters' Association. As an experienced Firefighter, Miguel served his community as a Fire Academy Instructor, Peer Support Member, and Paramedic.

Sadly, our community is now in mourning. On Wednesday, February 8th, Miguel tragically passed away due to work-related non-Hodgkin's Follicular Lymphoma (NHL), a cancer of the lymphatic system. He is survived by his wife, their 3 children, and his family. I offer my deepest condolences on their loss.

For his outstanding accomplishments, it is my honor to recognize Firefighter and Fire Engineer Miguel Cervantes. His years of civic service and commitment to the city and the people of Rancho Cucamonga are worthy of the highest commendation. He will be missed.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF JANET ABELSON

**HON. MARK DeSAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2023*

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, alongside Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI, to recognize the life and service of former Mayor of El Cerrito, Janet Abelson.

Throughout her life, Janet was a fierce advocate for marginalized communities. Janet was a resident of El Cerrito beginning in 1970 and was first elected to the El Cerrito City Council in 1999. She served as mayor in 2002, 2006, 2010, 2014, and 2017, a record five times, during her tenure with the city. Driven by a genuine passion for service, Janet spearheaded many efforts to advance transportation equity, disability rights, and to improve the lives of seniors within the city. She was a strong supporter of El Cerrito's Student Bus Pass Program, advocating for improved accessibility for all. Janet was also instrumental in modernizing El Cerrito's infrastructure and advocating for the interests of her fellow community members. Among her many achievements, Janet was especially proud of the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan, a plan she authored which would establish a clear vision for San Pablo Avenue and provide greater opportunities for work and community life in the city.

Janet was also a key member of a variety of regional groups, constantly seeking ways to serve Contra Costa families. She worked closely with the League of Women Voters, PTA of Harding and El Cerrito High School, Soroptimist International of El Cerrito, and served as chair of the West Contra Costa Transportation Authority, Contra Costa Transportation Authority, and the East Bay Division, League of California Cities. Her leadership has been critical in helping to improve quality of life for residents throughout the Bay Area.

Sadly, Janet passed away on January 26, 2023 at the age of 76. Janet leaves behind an indelible legacy and her work will continue to

have a lasting impact on the West County Community. She will be remembered for her determination, compassion, and for her many contributions to our community. Please join me and Congressman GARAMENDI in honoring Janet Abelson for her outstanding 23 years of public service to the City of El Cerrito and the Bay Area.

CONGRATULATING RAY DAVILA  
ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. MICHAEL CLOUD**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2023*

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to wish Reginaldo "Ray" Davila a very happy retirement after 73 years in the shoe repair business in Port Lavaca, Texas. Ray and his beloved wife, Tina, came to this Nation as a young couple in 1954 with \$20 to their name and three children to support. After eventually settling in Port Lavaca, Ray opened a cobbler shop—a trade he learned from his father in Mexico as a teenager.

Though initially a small operation, the Davilas eventually saved up enough to purchase neighboring real estate on the block as an investment. This extra revenue allowed the shop to continue to operate as other cobblers went out of business. As time went on, Ray's cobbler shop evolved into a place for locals to stop by and get to know one another, becoming a hallmark of Port Lavaca.

After passing day-to-day operations along to his son, Ray is now fully retiring at the age of 96. I join the community of Port Lavaca in thanking him for his many years of dedicated service and wishing him a happy retirement.

RECOGNIZING HOMETOWN HERO  
BOB HARRIS

**HON. BETH VAN DUYNE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2023*

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Bob Harris, Co-founder of Level Pathways. Level Pathways is a nonprofit group in Irving that encourages homeless youth by facilitating employment, medical, food, clothing, and educational resources.

Level Pathways was founded to give homeless youth in high school a chance to live a new life, graduate, and develop into productive citizens. Bob works with multiple organizations and nonprofits to provide fundamental resources to curb homelessness. On top of being CEO of Level Pathways, Bob also has more than 12 years of experience operating Wilderness Trek Christian Camp and Texoma Youth Camp. He has been working for nonprofit organizations in North Texas for more than 30 years. Bob is an active member of our community working to end homelessness and allocate structural resources for underprivileged youth to excel.

I thank Bob for going above and beyond for our community. His selflessness and dedication do not go unnoticed.